

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN HONOR OF A FALLEN HERO: PO 2ND CLASS TONY MICHAEL RANDOLPH—"A MAN ON A MISSION", EODT, THE UNITED STATES NAVY

HON. MARKWAYNE MULLIN

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 22, 2013

Mr. MULLIN. Mr. Speaker, on this upcoming Memorial Day, I rise to honor an American Hero and a PO 2ND CLASS, Tony Michael Randolph, of Henryetta, Oklahoma. Last year, on July 6th, Tony was killed by a roadside bomb while traveling in a convoy in southern Afghanistan. His Strength in honor would make any American proud! And as a member of Navy's EOD Team, he had one of the most dangerous jobs in the military. He received a Bronze Star with Valor and a Purple Heart. From the early age of 12, he knew he wanted to be in the Military and serve his country. His reputation in High School and in the Military for his selfless and relentless work effort impressed all who had the pleasure to come into contact with him. Our prayers go out to him and his family on this Memorial Day and all of the thousands of families whose pain mounts. It's true, only The Good Die Young! I submit this poem penned in his honor and memory by Albert Caswell.

IN HONOR'S GRACE

In . . .
In Honor's Grace!
We now so see your face!
As high above all others,
we now you so place!
All in how you've so lived your life,
all in your most selfless of all sacrifice!
As up to Heaven,
to our Lord Tony you now so rise!
So rise!
As this new Angel,
so takes flight!
To so watch over us so day and night!
Day and night!
As here we so stand,
with tears all in eyes!
As our Hero,
has so died!
As we so all realize,
what pain before your family now so lies!
So lies!
And that great future before you would have
so realized!
But it's far . . . far . . . better,
to have died for something,
than to have so lived for nothing at all!
As it's for you Tony,
America's son out to you our hearts now so
call!
For your fine short life,
was but like a song up on high!
NAVY STRONG!
As A Man On A Mission,
who to our Lord now so belongs!
Who'd so cast his light!
As An Angel In The Army of Our Lord,
to so watch over us both day and night!
Day and night!
And we will hear you on the wind,
as you take flight!

And we will feel you in the morning,
as we awake all by our side!
As you Tony were EOD,
and as brave and as bold as could be!
Could be!
To So Make A Difference With It All!
Was want you so Tony wanted,
and what you so saw!
As you Tony,
so answered that most noble of all calls!
That Call To Arms!
Where only, the most courageous of all
hearts of honor do so roam!
Moments,
are all that we so have!
To Grab Hearts!
To Make A Difference With It All!
To bring our light!
To evil,
to so fight!
Goodness!
Evil!
Darkness!
Light!
Those Brave Hearts,
who evil must fight!
Who bring their light!
And across Oklahoma on this very night,
as your love ones so lay their heads down so
to sleep . . .
there comes a gentle rain as our Lord so
weeps!
Are his tears coming down from Heaven to so
ease your pain!
Until, up in Heaven you all so meet once
again . . .
And you won't have to cry no more!
And now,
as we so lay your fine body down to rest!
For this our Nation Tony,
you have so blessed!
For it's All In Honor's Grace,
That You Now So Rest!
So Rest!
Amen!

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 22, 2013

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 164, I was unavoidably detained off of the House floor at a doctor's appointment. Therefore, I was unable to cast my vote on H.R. 1412, the Improving Job Opportunities for Veterans Act of 2013.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yes".

Also on rollcall No. 165, I was unable to cast my vote on H.R. 1344, the Helping Heroes Fly Act.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

And on rollcall No. 166, I was unable to cast my vote on H.R. 3234, the bill to grant the Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to the First Special Service Force, in recognition of its superior service during World War II, as amended.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

RAVEN CLEVELAND

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 22, 2013

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Raven Cleveland for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Raven Cleveland is a 10th grader at Jefferson High School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Raven Cleveland is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Raven Cleveland for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

HONORING THE REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN ON ITS 95TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 22, 2013

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the Republic of Azerbaijan in celebration of the 95th anniversary of Republic Day on May 28th.

Azerbaijan and the United States have developed a robust and growing relationship over the last two decades. I am extremely proud that we have established what Secretary Clinton has called "deep, important, and durable bonds between the United States and Azerbaijan."

Although located in a geopolitically tough location between Russia and Iran, Azerbaijan has consistently looked to the United States as an ally despite these difficult neighbors. A secular country with a predominantly Muslim population, Azerbaijan has also been home to vibrant Christian and Jewish communities representing a role model for peaceful coexistence and harmony of different religions and ethnic groups.

Azerbaijan was also the first country to open Caspian energy resources to development by U.S. and European companies and has emerged as a key player for global energy security. The Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan pipeline project, supported by successive U.S. Administrations, is the most successful project contributing to the development of the South Caucasus region. Realization of the Trans Anatolian Pipeline (TANAP) Project between

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

Azerbaijan and Turkey will immensely contribute to energy security in Europe by exporting Azerbaijani natural gas to the European markets.

On a security front, Azerbaijan has been a key ally in a post 9/11 era, emerging as one of the first countries to offer strong support and assistance to the United States. Actively participating in joint operations in both Iraq and Afghanistan, Azerbaijan has also extended important overflight clearances for U.S. and NATO flights and provided key supply routes to Afghanistan by making available its ground and Caspian naval transportation facilities. The transit route through Azerbaijan accounts for roughly 40 percent of the Coalition supplies bound for Afghanistan.

As the Co-Chairman of the Congressional Azerbaijan Caucus, it is my distinct pleasure to honor the Republic of Azerbaijan in celebration of the 95th anniversary of Republic Day and to recognize the valuable bilateral relationship between the United States and Azerbaijan. I also encourage my colleagues who are interested in supporting Azerbaijan to join me as a member of the Congressional Azerbaijan Caucus, a bipartisan group of more than 40 Members of Congress working to help foster the growing partnership between the United States and Azerbaijan and to advance U.S. interests in this pivotal region.

THE GREATEST GIFT IN HONOR OF
THE FALLEN THIS MEMORIAL
DAY THE ONES WHO GAVE THAT
LAST FULL MEASURE

HON. CORY GARDNER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 22, 2013

Mr. GARDNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and in gratitude, for all of the fallen and their families this Memorial Day. I submit this poem penned in their honor by Albert Caswell.

THE GREATEST GIFT

The . . .
The Greatest Gift!
As such as this,
is a many splendor thing!
To lay down ones life,
is but the brightest of all bright!
To go off to war,
all for your Nation . . . to so insure!
Our freedom to so bring!
As throughout the years . . .
As have so come here!
All of our most precious of all Daughter's
and Son's,
who have so persevered!
With courage clear,
as the face of death upon them so appeared!
And for all of their lost loves,
we now hold so very high above so very dear!
The ones who so went off to war,
all for our freedoms to so insure!
To do what must so be done!
For these are the ones,
who so lived and so died and did so not ask
why!
As the Angels up in heaven all for them so
cried!
And, all of those families who so now live
without!
As their pain and their heartache so seems
to mount!
Until, up in Heaven again they all so meet
on this you can count!
As all of their loved ones tears now so fall to
the ground!

The Mother's! The Father's! The Sister's!
The Brother's!

The Son's and The Daughters!
Who together no longer so remain!
Who so gave all that they so could!
But For The Greater Good!
The Ones Who So Heard The Call!
The Ones Who So Stood So Very Tall!
To Do What Must So Be Done!
On Earth as it is In Heaven,
In Thy Kingdom Come!
To take up that flight,
in The Army of Our Lord to so overcome!
To so watch over us all day and night!
And This Is Their Blood,
that which now so runs!
And these are the tears,
that which your families have now so begun!
And these are all of their dreams that which
will so never become!

For this is The Day . . .
that which so all portrays . . .
America's very heart to so everyone!
So give thanks,
to all of those Yanks who lie now deep in the
cold dark ground!
On This Memorial Day,
forget not what they all so gave!
And the families who with their tears will all
so pay!
As on your knees,
I bid you please to so say a prayer for all of
these!

Who but with their fine lives so bought us
peace!

The ones who so lived and so died,
while all of their families so cried . . .
Who so fought all of those Wars which were
waged!

With but their fine lives that they gave,
was but the high price of Freedom paid!
Sadly,

for any Nation to so live free!
For any Nation to so find her most blessed
peace!

Her most precious of all Son's and Daugh-
ters,
must lay down into the ground so very deep!
Is but the cruel and high cost of most pre-
cious liberty!

North, South, West, and so East!
On This Memorial Day,
please . . . please . . . Remember All of
These!

And so say a prayer!
Amen!

ROBERTO MAESTAS

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 22, 2013

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Roberto Maestas for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Roberto Maestas is a 12th grader at Standley Lake High School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Roberto Maestas is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Roberto Maestas for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedi-

cation and character in all of his future accomplishments.

HONORING CHAPLAIN (LT. COL.)

CHARLES CURRIE, RET.

HON. MARSHA BLACKBURN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 22, 2013

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, there are citizens making up this great country who never cease in offering themselves to their communities while improving the quality of our lives. They are the lights of our neighborhoods and families that bring hope long after they are gone. I rise today to celebrate one such glorious light and honor the legacy of Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Charles Currie, Ret.

Chaplain Currie dedicated his life to the calling of the Almighty and in service to the country he loved. During World War II, Currie played the trombone in the 11th Airborne Division Band. He returned to the Army as a Chaplain after graduating from Dallas Theological Seminary with a Master's Degree in Theology. He preached of the goodness and hope of the Almighty at Ft Bragg, Ludwigsburg, Germany, Fort Campbell, Pajori, Bayreuth, and Nuremberg, Germany, Vietnam, and Fort Knox. He retired as a Lt. Colonel with more than 20 years of service and began to travel the world serving and leading mission trips to more than 38 countries.

From all of Judea to the ends of the Earth, Chaplain Currie's legacy will be long remembered. Mr. Speaker, the Tennessee 7th Congressional District is better for his lasting goodwill. I ask my colleagues to join with me in honoring the life and service of Chaplain Charles Currie.

HONORING CAPTAIN EMERY BURK

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 22, 2013

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the valiant services of Captain Emery Burk and thank him, as he retires, for serving Wayne State University and wider Detroit communities for 36 years.

Captain Emery Burk is retiring from the Wayne State University Police Department after 36 years of dedicated service. Born in Detroit, Michigan, Emery Burk attended Hamtramck Public schools and then attended Michigan State University, graduating in 1975 with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Criminal Justice. Mr. Burk was hired by the Wayne State University Department of Public Safety on June 21, 1976, and started the Detroit Police Academy the same month. Upon his completion of the Police Academy, Emery was assigned to patrol, often leading his shift in arrest and other related statistics. During his patrol operations, Emery was a Field Training Officer and trained many of the officers who came through the department.

Mr. Burk was the recipient of the Valor Award for heroic service as a patrol officer. At the time, he was only the second officer in the department to receive this high award. As an